



AMBASSADOR

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
TO THE HOLY SEE

20 December 2018

Uniforms4Kids  
c/- Australian Federal Police  
Edmund Barton Building  
Kings Avenue  
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Uniforms4Kids

You may be aware that Assistant Commissioner Crime Operations Australian Federal Police Debbie Platz visited the Rome in February this year for a meeting of the Holy See's Santa Marta Group of law enforcers and religious to combat human trafficking. She briefed me on Uniforms4Kids and proposed a package if we at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See believed there was a need to be met. I welcomed the initiative.

To coincide with the visit of AFP Liaison Officer Bianca Warland The Hague, we arranged a morning tea in April to gift your creations to vulnerable families in Rome being cared for by the Sant'Egidio community. We were not prepared for the joyful response. I, and my colleagues at the Embassy, are grateful to you for the comfort you have brought to parents and children alike here through your tireless efforts crafting such beautiful garments. Some of those who received your precious gifts made with such care have experienced tragedy and witnessed atrocities we cannot imagine. They were humbled that Australians 16,000km away were interested in assisting them build a new future.

We featured the gifting on our website <https://holyseembassy.gov.au/> and on Flickr and reported to Ministers in Canberra: I have attached the photo and caption, so you can put faces to names and appreciate the impact of your thoughtfulness.

Yours is the language of love and care, stitched into every seam. May it long continue! Thank you once again for sharing your talents so generously. It is a privilege for the Australian Embassy to the Holy See to represent you and convey your work to those in need.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Hitchman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HE Ms Melissa Hitchman

26 April 2018 - Supporting Sant'Egidio's work with migrant communities



Australian Federal Police Liaison Officer Bianca Warland (centre of photo, holding gift basket), visiting from The Hague and accompanied by colleagues from the Australian Embassy to the Holy See (including HE Ambassador Hitchman (fourth adult from the right) and Deputy Head of Mission Alison Edge (third adult from the left)), gifted [Uniforms4Kids](#) to migrant students from the [Sant'Egidio Community Centre](#) in Rome on 26 April 2018. They were gratefully received by, from left to right: Centre Coordinator Monica Attias, Gandj and Mariam (holding their daughter Stella), Deborah and Johnny in front of them, Awet (Deborah's mother), Sara (holding her daughter Joy), Wegatha (Johnny's mother), Tamar (holding her baby Maria), Susannah and Jamila. The clothing is repurposed from the AFP, Border Force and Australia Zoo for those in need. The Embassy thanks Sant'Egidio for its collaboration.